



NEWS RELEASE

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Indiana@Work enrolls three advanced manufacturing firms in northeastern Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that three northeastern Indiana advanced manufacturing firms have enrolled in the Indiana@Work program, the state's new workforce development initiative.

Administered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indiana@Work has pledged a total of \$29,078 to conduct skills assessments for 374 people and provide 12 job profiles at Huntington County's **Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**, Adams County's **Berne Tube Products** and Allen County's **Fort Wayne Metals Research Products Corp.**

"We are pleased that more companies in northeastern Indiana are taking advantage of the Indiana@Work program," Kernan said. "Through the assessment and profiling process, both Hoosier workers and the businesses will be more competitive in the global market and better positioned to meet the needs of their customers."

In order to expand its workforce with qualified candidates, **Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC** will utilize \$8,468 from Indiana@Work to profile its operations and service technician positions. Bendix then will assess potential new hires to fill future openings. Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group, supplies air brakes, charging- and control-systems and components, wheel-end and electronic braking systems, vehicle modules, and leading-edge safety technologies under the Bendix® brand name for medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses and other commercial vehicles. Employing more than 1,800 people, the company is headquartered in Elyria, Ohio. The Huntington manufacturing plant employs 369 people.

Adams County's **Berne Tube Products** will assess 59 incumbent workers thanks to the \$10,024 dedicated through Indiana@Work. The company also will profile five positions: general production, set-up, tool room machinist, maintenance technician and administration. As subsidiary of Blissfield Manufacturing Co., the employees at the Berne production facility manufacture automotive power steering coolers. BMC also offers a complete sheet metal fabrication department and contact brazing capabilities.

"We are excited to participate in the Indiana@Work program. Not only do our employees benefit, but we are better able to identify our strengths and weaknesses to keep us competitive within the automotive industry," said Sandra Affolder, Berne's human resources manager.

Expanding its operations, **Fort Wayne Metals Research Products Corp.** will assess up to 85 people in order to fill 10 new positions. With \$10,586 obligated by Indiana@Work, the supervisor, group leader, customer service associate, special operations and inspection positions at the Allen County facility also will be profiled. Employing more than 260 people, Fort Wayne Metals Research Products Corp. is a market leader in the precision wire industry. The company produces wire for use

in catheters, guide wires, implantable leads, orthopedic devices, orthodontic appliances, needles and sutures as well as other demanding applications. It also offers metallurgical services.

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“Our company has used WorkKeys in the past and have been quite pleased with the entire process,” said Dennis Rohrs, the company’s human resources manager. “Indiana@Work will allow us to not only identify qualified job applicants more easily, but allow us to evaluate the types of training our workers may need in the future.”

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skills assessments, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job, is the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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